

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 02805 091215Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /059 W
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R 090950Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4166
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 2805

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP BM CB
SUBJ: BURMESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO KAMPUCHEA AND CHINA

REF: RANGOON 2698

1. BURMESE FOREIGN MINISTER U HLA PHONE VISITED KAMPUCHEA AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 4, AND STOPPED OVERNIGHT IN PEKING BEFORE HIS RETURN TO RANGOON SEPTEMBER 5. OUR EFFORTS (AND THOSE OF OTHERS IN THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY) TO SEE MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PARTY FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE TRIP HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL, SO WE HAVE NO SPECIAL INFORMATION ON IT OTHER THAN WHAT WAS IN THE PRESS.
2. IN KAMPUCHEA, U HLA PHONE MET WITH CHIEF OF STATE KIEU SAMPHAN AS WELL AS DEPUTY PREMIER IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IENG SARY, WHOSE MARCH 7-14 VISIT TO BURMA HE WAS RECIPROCATING. HE WENT TO SIEM REAP IN ADDITION TO PHNOM PENH.
3. IN A BANQUET SPEECH QUOTED IN THE RANGOON PRESS (COPIES BEING POUCHED TO EA/VLC), IENG SARY HAILED BURMA-KAMPUCHEA FRIENDSHIP, EMPHASIZED THE "NON-ALIGNED AND GENUINELY INDEPENDENT" POSITION OF BOTH COUNTRIES, CLAIMED THAT KAMPUCHEA HAS "SUCCESSFULLY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RANGOO 02805 091215Z

SAFEGUARDED AND DEFENDED THE INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE COUNTRY... BY DEFEATING ALL SCHEMES OF THE ENEMIES OF ALL KINDS." AND EXPRESSED THE DESIRE OF THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE "TO LIVE IN PEACE WITHIN THEIR TERRITORY AND TO HAVE CLOSE RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL COUNTRIES, NEAR OR FAR, THROUGHOUT THE WORLD" ON THE BASIS OF THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE.

4. U HLA PHONE, IN HIS BRIEF REPLY, VOICED WARM APPROVAL OF KAMPUCHEA'S "GREAT VICTORIES" IN 1975 AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE VISIT WOULD FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE "TRADITIONAL FRIENDLY RELATIONS" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

5. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT THE TRIP HAD ANY PARTICULAR SUBSTANCE OTHER THAN ITS GOODWILL ASPECTS. MANY OBSERVERS IN RANGOON BELIEVE ITS TIMING WAS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO IRRITATE THE THAI. ALTHOUGH OUR INFORMATION INDICATES THIS IS PROBABLY NOT CORRECT, SINCE THE VISIT WAS SCHEDULED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, THE FACT THAT THIS IS SO WIDELY BELIEVED HERE IS TESTIMONY TO THE CURRENTLY VERY POOR STATE OF THAI-BURMA RELATIONS. (SEPTTEL ON THIS SUBJECT FOLLOWS.) ALSO, ANTI-PATHY TOWARD THAILAND IS ONE OF THE GENUINELY SHARED TRADITIONS OF BURMA AND CAMBODIA, AND IN EXPRESSING THEIR WARM FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL ADMIRATION THEY ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE A THAI AUDIENCE IN MIND.

6. IN SO FAR AS IT HAD ANY SUBSTANCE AT ALL OTHER THAN THE DESIRE TO AVOID TRANSITING BANGKOK, U HLA PHONE'S OVERNIGHT STOP IN PEKING WAS PROBABLY MADE IN CONNECTION WITH PRESIDENT NE WIN'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO CHINA AND NORTH KOREA (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS).
BARTLEY

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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